



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Hidehiko KIRA et al. ✓

Serial No.: 08/897,953 ✓

Filed: July 24, 1997 ✓

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FABRICATING
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE ✓

MAY 18 1998

GROUP 2500

Group Art Unit: 1107

Examiner: David E. GRAYBILL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND TRANSMITTAL
OF FEE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 8, 1998

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of the document is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action or a Notice of Allowance. A check is attached hereto which covers the \$240.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

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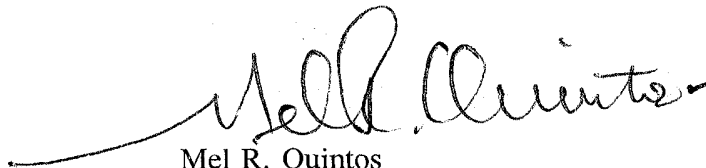
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The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340. Three copies of this authorization are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
McLELAND & NAUGHTON



Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 31,898 ✓

Attorney Docket No. 950107A
1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-293
MRQ:lrj

Enclosures: (1) Check
(2) PTO 1449
(3) 1 Reference